

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Bill Feldmeier
Interim Executive Director



Board Members

Walter D. Armer, Jr., Vail, *Chair*
Maria Baier, State Land Commissioner, *Vice Chair*
Alan Everett, Sedona
Larry Landry, Phoenix
William C. Scalzo, Phoenix
Tracey Westerhausen, Phoenix
Reese Woodling, Tucson

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
of
THE ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS
(ASCOT)
of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD

Notice is hereby given pursuant to A.R.S. §41-511.22 to members of the Arizona State Committee On Trails (ASCOT) and the general public that the ASCOT will hold a meeting open to the public on **Friday, April 6, 2012 beginning at 8:30 am at the BLM-Arizona State Office, One North Central Building, 8th Floor, Phoenix (NE corner of Central and Washington)**. Visitors may park on the first level of the Parking Garage by entering off of 1st Street (heading north) from Washington Street (ONE WAY heading west). Please use the Visitor Stalls (marked in Green). Have your parking ticket validated at the reception desk on the 8th Floor before going to the conference rooms. **Attendance via teleconference is available by request only. Call-in instructions will be provided.** Items on the Agenda may be discussed out of order, unless they have been specifically set for a time certain. Public comment will be taken. The Committee will discuss and may take action on the following matters:

AGENDA

(The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda.)

- A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
- B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF
- C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC – Those wishing to address the Committee must be recognized by the Chair. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization and the time allotted by the Chair. Action taken as a result of acknowledgment of comments and suggestions from the public will be limited to directing staff to study or reschedule the matter for further consideration at a later time.
- D. ASCOT ACTION ITEMS
 - 1. ASCOT Will Review and Approve Minutes from the March 2, 2012 Meeting.
 - 2. ASCOT Will Select a New Chair and Vice-Chair and State Trail System Subcommittee Chair – These positions are typically filled at the first meeting of the year, however, because the appointment of new committee

members was delayed until March 21, 2012, this is the first meeting with all new members present.

3. **ASCOT Will Review and May Adopt a Welcome Letter to be Used as an Orientation for New Members** – ASCOT has developed a “welcome letter” that will be presented for review by the Committee to be used to give new ASCOT members an overview of what the Committee does and what is expected of them. This discussion will serve as orientation for this year’s new members.
4. **ASCOT Will Discuss and May Recommend Use of A Trail Rating System for State Trail System Trails** – The local parks entities that manage recreational trails have been working on a trail rating system to help trail users select trails that are suited to their abilities. ASCOT received a report on the rating system at their March 2, 2012 meeting and may take action to recommend implementation of the system for all State Trail System trails.
5. **ASCOT Will Discuss the Work Product for 2012 Including Support for the International Trails Symposium (ITS)** – Each year ASCOT identifies its major goals for the year and the actions necessary to accomplish those goals. Subcommittees are identified and timelines are established to achieve the goals. The Committee will receive an update on the ITS and may select projects that support the symposium.
6. **Staff Will Present Rating Criteria and Other Requirements for a Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Program Grant Solicitation.** – Staff presented some suggestions to ASCOT at their March 2, 2012 regarding a grant solicitation for non-motorized trail projects and got some input from the Committee. Staff will present the proposed process and consider any final suggestions from ASCOT before implementing the solicitation in May 2012.

E. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS AND CALL FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – ASCOT will identify meeting dates and locations for the remainder of 2012.


Staff will investigate the volunteer hours recording process used in the state parks and determine if it will be beneficial to have all advisory groups participate.

F. ADJOURNMENT

A copy of this agenda and any background material provided to ASCOT Members is available for public inspection at Arizona State Parks, Partnerships Division 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, Arizona and on the State Parks website at <http://azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.html>.

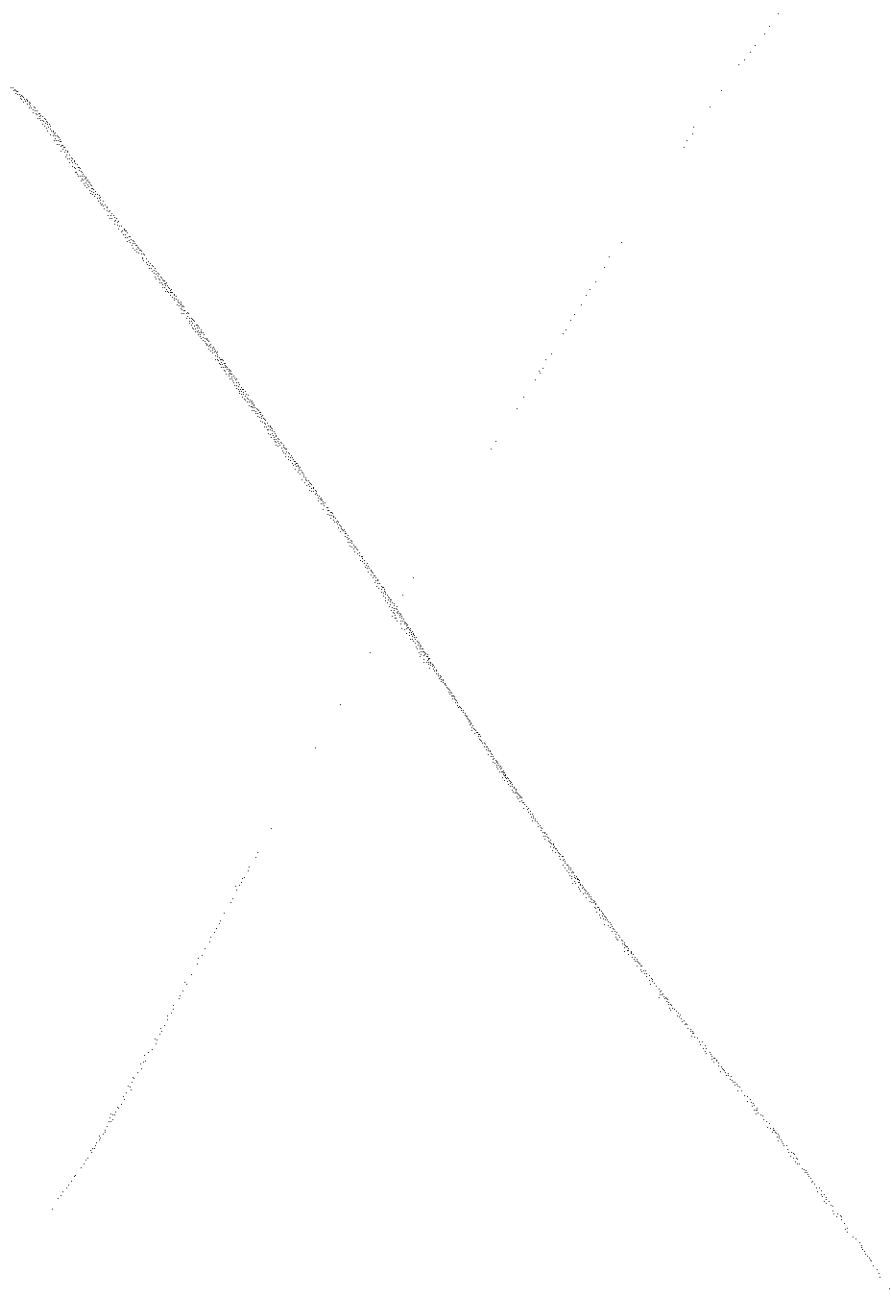
For additional information, contact Robert Baldwin at (602) 542-7130.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Arizona State Parks does not discriminate on the basis of a disability regarding admission to public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the State Parks office at (602) 542-7152; or TTY (602) 542-4174. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.


Jay Ziemann, Assistant Director
Partnerships Division, Arizona State Parks

Posted at: Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington, 1st Floor
Phoenix, Arizona

And at: <http://azstateparks.com/committees/ASCOT.htm>



MINUTES
of the
ARIZONA STATE COMMITTEE ON TRAILS (ASCOT)
of
ARIZONA STATE PARKS (ASP)
Meeting of March 02, 2012

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 am.

ASCOT Members Present:

Kent Taylor, Chair	Linda Slay
Nick Lund	Bruce Weidenhamer
Tom Fitzgerald	Phyllis Ralley
Lisa Marie Gerdl	Ryan Domsalla
Anna Pfender	Daniel Gronseth
Bill Gibson	

ASCOT Members Absent:

Loren Worthington	Matt Kalina
Reba Grandrud-Wells	

Arizona State Parks (ASP) Staff: Robert Baldwin

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes from the October 12, 2011 meeting.

The Chair called for any objections to the October 12, 2011 meeting minutes. Linda Slay and Bill Gibson sought clarification that the Trail Plan was evaluated every 5 years and Robert Baldwin confirmed the plan timeline. Bruce Weidenhamer sought clarification that the State Parks Board still supports ASCOT as an advisory committee and Robert Baldwin confirmed their support from the November 2011 State Parks Board meeting. Hearing no other objections to the October 12, 2011 meeting minutes the Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes with Nick Lund lending the first and Bill Gibson the second, all members voted aye and the minutes are approved.

2. ASCOT will consider the recommendation from the Membership Committee to move Lisa Marie Gerdl from a Trail-User Group position to a Citizen-at-Large Position.

The Chair called for any objections to the Motion to move Lisa Marie Gerdl to a vacant Citizen-at-Large position. Hearing no objections to the Motion meeting minutes the Chair called for a motion to approve the recommendation with Linda Slay lending the first and Nick Lund the second, all members voted aye and the motion is approved.

3. ASCOT will consider the recommendation from the Membership Committee for new ASCOT Members and make a recommendation to the State Parks Board.

The Chair called for any objections to the Motion to recommend Laurel Arndt, Richard Kesselman, Jarod Rogers, Jackie Keller, and Laddie Cox for membership to ASCOT. Daniel Gronseth asked if there is conflict with Jarod Rogers being from the same Agency and after discussion it was decided there is no conflict as no other agency applied for a position. Hearing no objections to the Motion the Chair called for a motion to approve the recommendation with Tom Fitzgerald lending the first and Bill Gibson the second, all members voted aye and the motion is approved.

4. ASCOT will review the recommendations of the Trails Nomination Subcommittee for trails to be included in the State Trails System and approve a recommendation to be forwarded to the State Parks Board for final approval.

The Chair called for any objections to the Motion to recommend those trails selected by the Trails Nomination Subcommittee to be approved and forwarded to the State Parks Board for approval at the March 21, 2012 meeting. The group discussed the application by Avondale for the Monument Hill Trail which currently does not have all property owners signed and approved for the trail application which is required. After a brief discussion it was recommended with Linda Slay lending the first and Nick Lund the second that Monument Hill Trail be forwarded to the State Parks Board for approval if Avondale can secure the approval and signature of all property owners no later than March 20, 2012. Hearing no objections to the Motion the Chair called for a vote, all members voted aye and the motion is approved.

The Trails Nomination Subcommittee would like to propose returning to a timeline close to the original trail nomination submission period with application due by late July. Applications would be solicited in April/May of a given year and due by the last Friday of July within a given year. Robert Baldwin commented that if ASCOT wished to alter the timeline they should make a recommendation to the State Parks Board before the November 2012 meeting.

5. Staff will ask for suggestions from ASCOT concerning a competitive Grant Program for trail projects using Federal Recreational Trails Program funds.

Robert Baldwin advised ASCOT that funds are currently available for allocation as not all of the RTP funds awarded have been utilized. FUTS has not yet completed the NEPA requirement and have not used their awarded funds, and the BCT completed their trail project without using their awarded funds. Robert Baldwin estimated the available funds to be approximately \$1.5 Million. Robert Baldwin asks ASCOT if ASCOT wishes to set a cap on project awards, and what requirement(s) does ASCOT want for applications to be eligible for funding awards. Bruce Weidenhamer asked ASP if there was any project funding guidance and Robert Baldwin cited www.stateparks.com/OHV/projectfunding as a resource.

After discussion the group came to a consensus that a \$40,000/project for trail maintenance and a \$100,000/project for new construction would be the maximum award available for application that met all criteria. Applications would be rated on a points system using the Trails Plan as guidance. The group agreed that maintenance is still a priority over new construction at this time.

6. Update on the 2013 International Trails Symposium .

Tom Fitzgerald passed out literature regarding the upcoming Symposium in 2013 including volunteer application packets and sponsor applications. Several committees are in progress and active fundraising is underway. For information visit www.americantrails.org

7. Member Roundtable.

Kent: Casa Grande Mountain Park officially opened in November 2011. Trail is currently 15 miles with another trail crew expected to take trail to 20 miles.

Nick: Volunteers at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum have to track their volunteer hours. ASCOT members should report to Nick and estimation of the time they spend on ASCOT. At the ASP Advocacy day HB2362 was discussed. HB2362 is a proposal to create a State Park Revenue Fund from fees generated in the Park that would stay within the Parks system. Showlow Bluff was recently completed which is trail on private property with the developer funding the gates at trailhead.

Bill: The trails database is in progress and may take several years to compile all the trails into one resource. Currently an intern is working on the project.

Bruce: VoAZ along with the AZT did training recently for trail stewards in construction and maintenance with a re-route completed.

Dan: City of Phoenix has a new trail rating system including heat components.

Anna: AZT celebrated 02.04.12, and trail was completed on 12.16.11. AZT has a new executive director.

Linda: BCT is about to start on trailhead construction at Big Bug and Black Canyon City. BCT is about to start a trail steward program.

Ryan: BAER Assessment is complete, see handout. 44 miles of trail still needs assessment, many of the State Trail System trails have been significantly affected, and Escudilla is currently the only 'no access' area with other areas released to use as 'high risk'.

E. Time and place of next meetings and call for future agenda items.

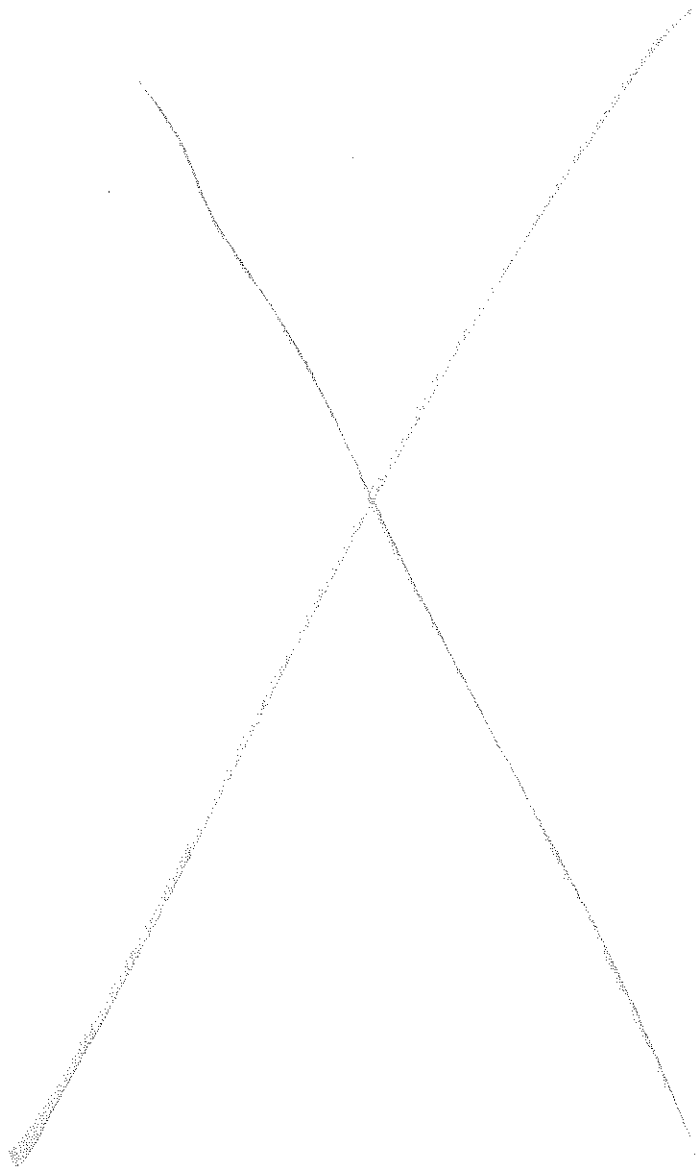
The next meeting is the Annual Meeting with OHVAG on April 06, 2012. The tentative location is downtown Phoenix.

Nick Lund called for discussion to consider forgoing the Fall 2012 Workshop in lieu of having a Workshop during the 2013 Trails Symposium.

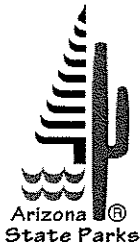
Bruce Weidenhamer called for consideration of his *New Member Letter* to be included in the ASCOT Member packet provided to new members.

F. Adjournment

The Chair called for adjournment of the meeting. Upon hearing no objections to the adjournment of the meeting the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.



AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-2



Title: ASCOT Will Select a New Chair and Vice-Chair and State Trail System Subcommittee Chair

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date: April 6, 2012

Recommended Motion(s):

I move to appoint _____ as Chair of the AZ State Committee On Trails until a new Chair is selected in 2013.

I move to appoint _____ as Vice Chair of the AZ State Committee On Trails until a new Vice-Chair is selected in 2013.

I move to appoint _____ as Chair of the State Trail System Subcommittee until a new Chair is selected in 2013.

Status to Date:

Annually, the AZ State Committee On Trails selects a Chair and Vice-Chair to coordinate the agenda with staff and preside over the meetings. This is typically done at the first meeting of the year. However, because the Parks Board delayed selecting new members for ASCOT until their March 21, 2012 meeting, this is the first meeting with all of the new members.

ASCOT has continued soliciting new trails for the State Trail System (STS) since the State Parks State Trail Coordinator position was vacated. The process requires a solicitation notice, application forms, review the applications, a recommendation to ASCOT, and final recommendation to the Parks Board for their November meeting. The Chair will coordinate meetings and posting and collecting applications with State Parks staff.

Time Frame:

The newly elected Chair and Vice-Chair will preside over the remainder of this meeting. The STS Chair will select subcommittee members to begin the trail selection process.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Activities in support of the advisory committees are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

At the March 21, 2012 Parks Board meeting Laurel Arndt, Laddie Cox, Jackie Keller, Richard Kesselman, and Jarod Rogers were appointed to three-year terms ending December 31, 2014.

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-2

Attachments:

None.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Domsalla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Marie Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reba Grandrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dan Gronseth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jarod Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anna Pfender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Phyllis Ralley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loren Worthington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laddie Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approve ☐ Deny ☐ Amend ☐

Amend as follows:

Committee Questions/Comments:

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-2

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Domsalla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Marie Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reba Grandrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dan Gronseth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jarod Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anna Pfender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Phyllis Ralley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loren Worthington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laddie Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approve ☐ Deny ☐ Amend ☐

Amend as follows:

Committee Questions/Comments:

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-2

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

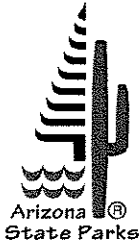
Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Domsalla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Marie Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reba Grandrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dan Gronseth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jarod Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anna Pfender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Phyllis Ralley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loren Worthington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laddie Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approve ☐ Deny ☐ Amend ☐

Amend as follows:

Committee Questions/Comments:

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-3



Title: ASCOT Will Review and May Adopt a Welcome Letter to be Used as an Orientation for New Members

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date: April 6, 2012

Recommended Motion(s):

None.

Status to Date:

The ASCOT Executive Committee has been working on a "welcome letter" to be sent to new ASCOT members to give them some background into the business of ASCOT and the expectations of ASCOT members. A draft of the letter is included as Attachment D3. During the discussion of the letter the new members will receive an orientation to ASCOT. The Committee may make a motion to accept the letter, make changes to the letter, and/or how to use the letter.

Time Frame:

Timelines and actions may be settled by a motion or this item may be discussed as a goal for 2012.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Activities in support of the advisory committees are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

None.

Attachments:

Attachment D3 – Draft ASCOT Welcome Letter.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-3

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Domsalla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Marie Gerd	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reba Grandrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dan Gronseth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jarod Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Phyllis Ralley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loren Worthington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laddie Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approve ☐ Deny ☐ Amend ☐

Amend as follows:

Committee Questions/Comments:

New ASCOT Appointees

Welcome to ASCOT. You will find the coming years of your term on ASCOT extremely interesting and educational. You have come to ASCOT because you are passionate about trails and have expressed that passion through your past actions, assignments and associations. That passion for trails is what caused you to apply to join ASCOT and what caused your name to be selected from the list of candidates to become a members of ASCOT.

ASCOT lies at the center of trails advocacy in the state of Arizona as an advisory committee to Arizona State Parks. Unknown to many in the trails community is the leadership role that Arizona State Parks plays in the promotion of all trails in Arizona, regardless of their location or managing government agency. Arizona State Parks is not only responsible for the trails within the Arizona State Parks system but also trails on all Arizona lands, both rural and urban. ASCOT supports and assists AZ State Parks in their mission of promoting trails in Arizona.

You will be more productive and find your time on ASCOT more enjoyable if you have an accurate understanding of ASCOT's roles and mandates.

What ASCOT Is Mandated To Do

There are just a few tasks that ASCOT is mandated to perform each year, some in direct support of the State Parks Board and others necessary to continue the existence of ASCOT.

ASCOT Determines Which Arizona Trails Should Be Eligible For Grants

One of ASCOT's mandated responsibilities is to advise the State Parks Board on what trails should be considered for trail grants. There is never enough grant money so the available money should only go to deserving trail projects. Each year new trail projects are submitted for grant consideration and part of that submission is to provide a detailed description of the trail project, which ASCOT evaluates for suitability to receive trail grants.

ASCOT Conducts A Yearly Joint meeting with OHVAG (Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group)

ASCOT is mandated to conduct a joint meeting once a year with the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) as a part of the trail grant oversight process. This is the only meeting that ASCOT is mandated to schedule in a given year, although a regular meeting is usually scheduled to immediately follow the joint meeting.

The primary purpose for this joint meeting for both groups to receive updates from State Parks staff on the status of trail grant/funding programs including where the money is being spent. This meeting is the other way in which ASCOT fulfills its obligation to provide review and oversight of trail funding programs.

Due to the lack of overlapping interests between the two trail advisory groups and the need for any topics to be placed on the agenda prior to the meetings, these joint meetings often do not serve a significant networking or general information sharing purpose between the two very different groups of trail users.

ASCOT Selects New Members

Each year the terms of a number of ASCOT members will end. Therefore ASCOT must select new members to fill those open positions. New members are selected from a list of submitted applications. Applications to ASCOT can be received from paid land management professionals, volunteers representing trail organizations or citizens-at-large. The majority of applications are from first-time ASCOT applicants while there are usually a few applications from previous ASCOT members who would like to continue their work on ASCOT.

What ASCOT Elects to Do

There are additional things that ASCOT chooses to do that are not mandatory but the ASCOT members feel provide value to ASCOT or the larger trails community.

ASCOT Conducts Four Meetings A Year

ASCOT generally conducts four general meetings a year, one of which usually follows the joint ASCOT/OHVAG meeting. These meetings provide the ASCOT members with a chance to see other members in person and talk about upcoming ASCOT events/tasks. One of the most valuable parts of the meeting are the updates from various ASCOT members regarding what is going on with trails in their organization or part of the state.

ASCOT Provides Networking And Information Sharing Opportunities

One of the most valuable aspects of ASCOT are the trail-related networking and information sharing opportunities during the meetings and other opportunities the members have to talk. Members of ASCOT get to know each other over the years of their term and these relationships last after people have left ASCOT, so being an ASCOT member also has long-term networking benefits. The selection of candidate trails and members, also serves a networking and education purpose because ASCOT members learn about other trails, trail organizations and members of the trails community.

ASCOT Sponsors and Conducts Trail Education Workshops

ASCOT's most direct contribution to Arizona trails is through the educational workshops that ASCOT sponsors and plans. These workshops, which occur once or twice a year, serve both an educational purpose, by bringing in speakers on various trail related topics, and a networking purpose, by bringing together trail advocates/professionals from organizations and government agencies across the state. While the education provided in these workshops is valuable, the networking opportunities are invaluable.

Nowhere else in the State of Arizona is there an opportunity for members of the trails community to network with others from many different trail organizations and geographic locations.

ASCOT Promotes the Arizona State Trail System

State of Arizona has a system of designating trails as the best in the state called Arizona State Trails Systems (ASTS). ASCOT uses its connections with State Parks to promote the ASTS trails within the state.

The Arizona State Trail System started in the 1970's as a way to recognize the best trails in the state. There were two categories of trails that could qualify for ASTS status: urban and rural. In 1990, with the adoption of the Heritage Fund, it was written in the legislation that a trail had to be in the ASTS to be eligible for grant funds. With the popularity of the Heritage Fund, ASCOT began to add additional types of trails to the ASTS, trails (or even just proposed trails) that were looking to receive Heritage grant funding. The Committee had a difficult time distinguishing trails that were the "best" versus ones that were great projects that deserved funding. This means that trails in the ASTS range from the very best, nationally known Arizona trails to poorly-designed local trails in need of grant money for repairs to wonderful trails that were never built (although the majority of not-yet-built trails have been removed from the ASTS list).

There is always tension between ASCOT members who want to promote the best, already-very-popular, trails in the ASTS vs. those members who prefer to promote the lesser known trails to spread user impacts across more trails. This balancing act between promotion and protection most recently resulted in ASCOT promoting ASTS by creating a list of each ASCOT member's favorite trail or suggestion of lesser-known trails deserving attention.

There are some problems with the Arizona State Trail System (ASTS) designation, both within and outside the system. The first and greatest problem is that outside of State Parks hardly anyone has ever heard of the ASTS. Those that have heard of ASTS commonly think, since it is related to AZ State Parks, it must be limited to trails on state parks lands. Because of the lack of understanding about the scope of ASTS, even very well known trails are sometimes not on the list.

The other problem with ASTS is it is not a just of list of the best trails in Arizona but a list of the best trails plus all of the trails, regardless of quality, length or sometimes even existence, that have been approved to get trails grants. This weird mix of trails makes it difficult to use the entire ASTS trail list as a trail user resource. So when promoting the ASTS, effort is usually made to limit recommendations to some subset of "best" trails.

Function as Liaison Between The Trail Community and AZ State Parks

Unknown to most people in Arizona, including those in the trails community, is the fact that Arizona State Parks is the lead organization in the state on the majority of trail issues, trainings, funding and support regardless which land management agency manages a particular trail. State parks staff works with ASCOT to coordinate these

various trail efforts and to educate the larger trail community about these State Parks responsibilities.

What ASCOT Cannot Do

ASCOT Cannot Advocate As A Body

While the individual members of ASCOT are not particularly political, except maybe where trails are concerned, as a body ASCOT is considered an arm of the government and therefore a political entity. The fact that ASCOT members are unpaid volunteers or are on the payroll of other government agencies, not paid State of Arizona employees, doesn't negate the fact they are working for the state government. Advocacy is when a governmental body takes a position on a subject and tries to convince the public to behave in a way to support that position. Whatever position a governmental entity takes on an issue, regardless how central that issue is to the mission of that organization, is bound to upset someone, so government entities like ASCOT are not allowed to serve in an advocacy role. This is not to say that the individual members of ASCOT cannot advocate for an issue, the ASCOT name cannot be associated with that advocacy.

ASCOT Does Not React Quickly

It is the nature of any governmental body that meets under open meeting laws that the only topics that can be discussed in a meeting are those placed on the agenda in advance. The only thing you can do with a new topic is to agree to put it on the next agenda and talk about it at a later meeting. This can sometimes be very frustrating when a topic comes up in a meeting that would benefit from immediate attention and ASCOT cannot officially talk about it until the next meeting, usually three months away. This is not to say that ASCOT cannot schedule quick follow up meetings, it just rarely happens. The general nature of not talking about new topics until the next meeting three months later creates an organizational pace that seems very slow at times.

ASCOT Has No Budget or Dedicated Staff

The only official role ASCOT has in the state of Arizona is as an advisory committee to the board of a state government department. ASCOT has no direct control over any trail organization support, funding or training. ASCOT doesn't have the budget or staff to directly influence Arizona trail organizations. In the past support for ASCOT has consisted of the part-time efforts of State Parks employees on ASCOT initiatives plus money from grant programs to fund the ASCOT Workshops.

Getting The Most Out Of Your Time on ASCOT

Attend As Many Meetings As Possible

We all lead busy lives and it is sometimes inconvenient to physically attend ASCOT meetings due to them being scheduled on a weekday (every other ASCOT meeting is held on a Friday for the benefit of the paid land management employees) or being held

at a remote location. Yes, you can attend these meetings by teleconference and this is sometimes necessary to achieve a quorum. However, many of the opportunities to network and learn what is going on in the trail community occur outside of the formal meetings, during breaks, at lunch and around a campfire. So every effort should be made to attend the ASCOT meetings in person.

Think Of Meeting Topics and Get Them On The Agenda

ASCOT is a government entity that operates under Open Meeting laws. Under Open Meeting laws, the only topics that can be discussed are those put on the agenda in advance, which is the formally published prior to the meeting. So the best way to make sure ASCOT is discussing the topics that you think are important, is to think of those topics in advance and get them placed on the agenda. Any member of ASCOT can place topics on the agenda and doing so only requires a quick e-mail or phone call to the person at State Parks who is putting together the agenda. Do not directly send the topic to all of the members of the committee to determine if it is a worthy topic for inclusion on the agenda, this can be a violation of Open Meeting law.

Take Full Advantage of Networking Opportunities

Being an ASCOT member and attending ASCOT functions provides many opportunities to network with other members of the Arizona trail community. Take full advantage of the opportunities to network because the relationships you build within the trail community will be much of the value you take away from ASCOT at the end of your term.

Serve on the Membership Selection and Trail Nomination Committees

Participating in the trail selection processes is interesting and educational, so new ASCOT members are encouraged to participate on the trail selection committee. You will learn a lot about new trails but also a lot about the land management agencies that are nominating the new trails and the types of work that go into developing those trails. You will also learn of new hikes to put on your hike "To Do" list.

Participating in the ASCOT member selection process is also very interesting and educational, as well as a unique form of trail community networking. You become acquainted with many trail organizations and the applicants histories with those organizations. You also become acquainted with members of the trail community who apply but do not become ASCOT members. So new ASCOT members are encouraged to participate on the membership committee.

Help Organize A Workshop

ASCOT workshops are not only sponsored by ASCOT but are also planned, organized and presented largely by ASCOT volunteers. Getting involved in planning a workshop will allow you to help plan the topics for the workshop and get to know the instructors, who are often nationally known experts in their topics.

Attend Every Workshop

ASCOT members who help organize a workshop usually attend that workshop but it is highly recommended that all ASCOT members attend the workshops. The educational topics are varied and often presented by trail experts from outside Arizona. The workshops serve as an opportunity for the larger trails community to network but they are also a great opportunity for ASCOT members to network with the larger trails community.

Get To Know Each Class of Incoming ASCOT Members

Get to know the incoming members of each class of incoming ASCOT members. Make them feel welcomed and help them get up to speed on what ASCOT is and how it operates. The quicker you build relationships with the new members, the more productive the new members will be in their roles in ASCOT.

Get To Know Each Class Of Graduating ASCOT Members

The first year of your ASCOT term you are just getting up to speed. During that first year when you are beginning the first year of your term, there are ASCOT members who are serving their last year. Find out who those individuals are and make an effort to get to know them. You may only attend a couple of ASCOT meeting with them before they leave and making the extra effort to get to know them will give you a networking contact after their term expires.

Propose Ideas That Are Within ASCOT's Ability To Make Happen

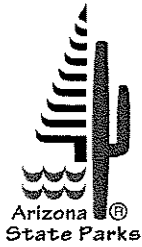
There are many trail needs within the State of Arizona that really deserve to be addressed. Ideas on how to address these needs are valuable but ASCOT is not necessarily the place to try to implement those ideas. ASCOT has a very narrow mandate and few resources to implement new ideas. Ask yourself when you have ideas to propose to ASCOT, can the idea be implemented with the current resources of ASCOT. More importantly, can you provide the volunteer support necessary to get the idea off the ground.

Wrap Up

We have touched on the limitations and constraints that ASCOT works under, so what are the strengths of ASCOT?

- ASCOT is the only truly statewide trail organization that touches on all trail issues across all trail organizations and land management agencies in Arizona.
- ASCOT has the ability to pull together the trail community, educate them, introduce them to other trail enthusiasts and send them home ready and motivated to give back to trails.
- ASCOT members leave their term of service much more trail educated and networked to aid their future trail endeavors.

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-4



Title: ASCOT Will Discuss and May Recommend Use of
A Trail Rating System for State Trail System Trails

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date: April 6, 2012

Recommended Motion(s):

None.

Status to Date:

The local parks entities that manage recreational trails have been working on a trail rating system to help trail users select trails that are suited to their abilities. ASCOT received a report on the rating system at their March 2, 2012 meeting and may take action to recommend implementation of the system for all State Trail System trails.

Time Frame:

This item may be discussed as a goal for 2012 and timelines and actions would be determined by that subcommittee.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Activities in support of the advisory committees are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

None.

Attachments:

Attachment D4 – Draft of a post card with the rating information.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-4

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Domsalla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Marie Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reba Grandrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dan Gronseth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jarod Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anna Pfender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Phyllis Ralley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loren Worthington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laddie Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approve ☐ Deny ☐ Amend ☐

Amend as follows:

Committee Questions/Comments:

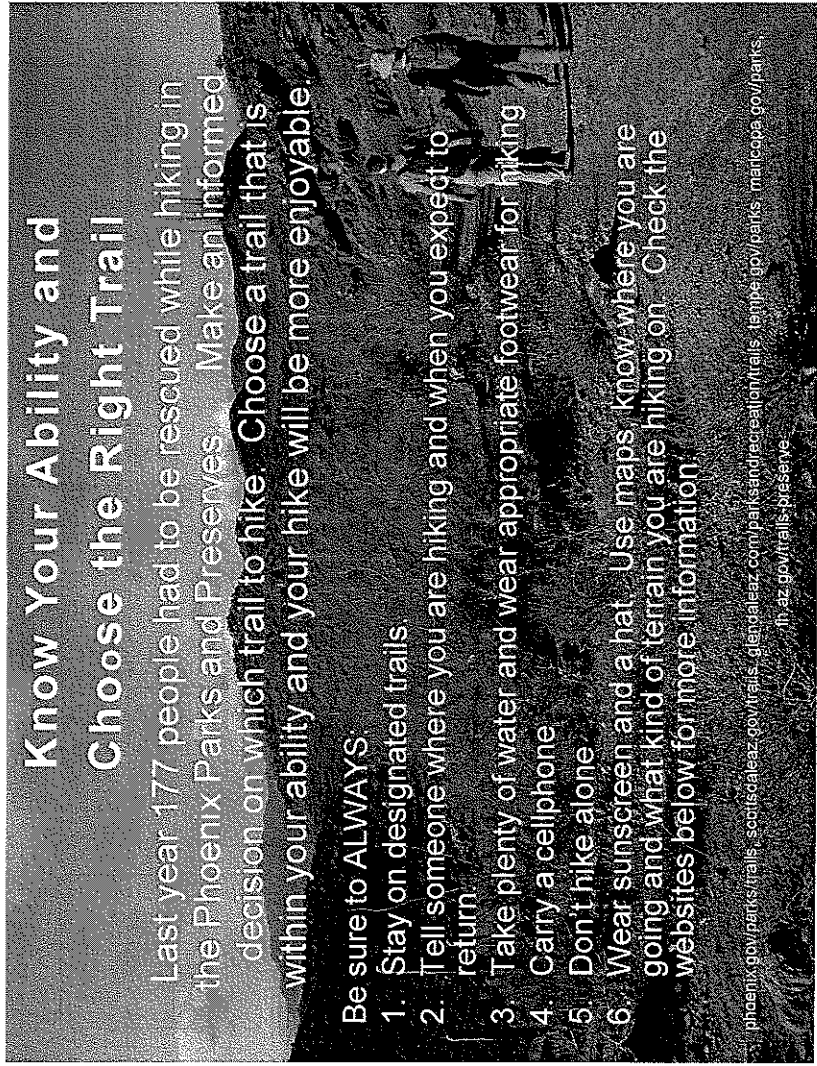
Know Your Ability and Choose the Right Trail

Last year 177 people had to be rescued while hiking in the Phoenix Parks and Preserves. Make an informed decision on which trail to hike. Choose a trail that is within your ability and your hike will be more enjoyable.

Be sure to ALWAYS:







1. Stay on designated trails.
2. Tell someone where you are hiking and when you expect to return.
3. Take plenty of water and wear appropriate footwear for hiking.
4. Carry a cellphone.
5. Don't hike alone.
6. Wear sunscreen and a hat. Use maps, know where you are going and what kind of terrain you are hiking on. Check the websites below for more information.

phoenix.gov/parks/trails, scottsdaleaz.gov/trails, glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation/trails, tempe.gov/parks, maricopa.gov/parks,
in.az.gov/trails-preserve

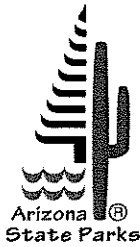


Trail Rating Guide

During the hotter months when the temperature and or humidity is high, trails will be rated at least one level higher

Rating Symbol	Brief Definition	Surface	Avg Trail Grade/Max Grade	Obstacles /Steps
 easiest	Paved Accessible Trail	Paved or hard and smooth	<5% Max 5%	None
 easy	Mostly smooth and wide	Dirt with occasional unevenness	<5% Max 10%	2" or less, rocks and ruts
 moderate	Mostly smooth, variable width	Dirt with occasional unevenness	<10% Max 15%	<8", rocks and ruts, loose material
 mod. difficult	Mostly uneven surfaces	Dirt and rock.	<15% Max 20%	<12", rocks, ruts, loose material
 difficult	Long rocky segments with possible drops and exposure	Dirt and loose rock with continual unevenness	>15% Max >20%	12" or taller, loose rocks, exposure to drops
 extremely difficult	Long rocky segments with possible drops and exposure	Dirt and loose rock with continual unevenness	>15% Max >20%	12" or taller, loose rocks, exposure to drops and excessive heat

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-5



Title: ASCOT Will Discuss the Work Product for 2012 Including Support for the International Trails Symposium (ITS)

Staff Lead: Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Resources & Public Programs

Date: April 6, 2012

Recommended Motion(s):

None.

Status to Date:

At the beginning of each year ASCOT identifies the goals it wishes to accomplish for the year. The Committee will discuss projects that have been done in the past, such as workshops, and choose projects that will benefit the trails community. The actions necessary to accomplish each goal are identified and timelines are established. ASCOT members will be asked to participate on subcommittees for each goal.

ASCOT members helped complete the application to American Trails for the ITS which resulted in Arizona being selected as the site for symposium to be held in April 2013. This will be the first time the trails symposium is being billed as an "international" event. ASCOT intends to be an active partner in the ITS. The Committee will receive an update on the ITS and discuss projects they can do in support of the symposium.

Time Frame:

The ITS will occur in April 2013 and supporting projects will be completed prior to and during that event. Other projects will be accomplished based on the established timelines.

Staff and Financial Resources:

Activities in support of the advisory committees are part of the normal workload for the Resources and Public Programs Section staff.

Relation to Strategic Plan:

Partnerships: To build lasting public and private partnerships to promote local economies, good neighbors, recreation, conservation, tourism and establish sustainable funding for the agency.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

None.

Attachments:

None.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Report
Agenda Item #: D-5

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Domsalla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Marie Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reba Grandrud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dan Gronseth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jarod Rogers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anna Pfender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Phyllis Ralley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loren Worthington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laddie Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

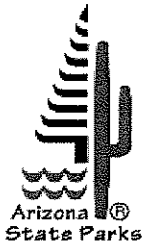
Approve ☐ Deny ☐ Amend ☐

Amend as follows:

Committee Questions/Comments:

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Information Report

Agenda Item # D-6:



Title: Staff Will Present Rating Criteria and Other Requirements for a Non-Motorized Recreational Trails Program Grant Solicitation

Presenter: Robert Baldwin, Grants Coordinator

Date: April 6, 2012

Status to Date:

In 2002 State Parks developed a program to provide trail maintenance services by contracting directly with vendors who could provide those services. This was in response to the Trails 2000 – State Trails Plan that identified maintaining trails as the highest priority of the polled trail users and managers. Trail maintenance continued to be the highest priority in the 2005 and 2010 trails plans.

The program is funded by the federal Recreational Trails Program () and is open to all managers of public trails. Project selection is by lottery. Recipients select one of the five trail crews (mainly conservation corps) who are on contract with Arizona State Parks to perform the work. The crews work under the direction of the project sponsor and are paid directly by Arizona State Parks. Match contributions are from agency staff and volunteer groups.

Up until 2009 State Parks was offering grants to construct new trails and support facilities through the Trails Heritage Fund. In 2010 the state legislature abolished the State Parks portion of the Heritage Fund legislation eliminating \$500,000 annually that was available for those projects.

The balance of RTP funds available for non-motorized projects has been building up and needs to be distributed. The State Parks RTP Trail Maintenance Program will continue and other projects will be solicited.

Upcoming Activities:

State Parks staff suggested this process at the March 2, 2012 ASCOT meeting and asked for some suggestions/guidance in developing the solicitation process. Following are basic guidelines for the non-motorized grants:

Governmental entities are eligible (cities, counties, state & federal agencies that manage trails).

Organizations are eligible to apply IF they have an agreement with the agency that controls the trail right-of-way AND they can establish financial credibility.

Work on any trail is eligible, however trails in the State Trail System will receive priority.

Applications for primarily safety and environmental education projects will be accepted and rated with the on-the-ground projects.

Grants will be limited to \$100,000 maximum. RTP funding requires NEPA compliance and at least 6% match (5% must be from non-federal sources).

An entity eligible for State Parks Trail Maintenance Program funds may apply for a trail maintenance grant and use in-house trail crews.

AZ State Committee On Trails Action Item / Information Report
Agenda Item # D-6:

Time Frame/Target Date for Completion:

The grant manual would be completed and the solicitation announced around the first of May. Applications would be due by the end of June.

Relevant Past Board Actions:

None.

Attachments:

Attachment D6 – Trails Plan Priorities

Motion:

None suggested.

Public Comment/Questions re Motion:

Committee Members	Aye	Nay	Absent	Abstain	Comments
Nick Lund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ryan Domsalla	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laurel Arndt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Lisa Marie Gerdl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bill Gibson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Dan Gronseth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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Jackie Keller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Anna Pfender	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Phyllis Ralley	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Slay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Richard Kesselman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Loren Worthington	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Laddie Cox	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approve ☐ Deny ☐ Amend ☐

AZ Trails 2010: A Statewide Motorized & Non-Motorized Trails Plan

First Level Priority

Non-Motorized Trail Recommendations

Maintain Existing Trails, Keep Trails in Good Condition

Protect Access to Trails/Acquire Land for Public Access

Second Level Priority

Non-Motorized Trail Recommendations

Mitigate and Restore Damage to Areas Surrounding Trails

Enforce Existing Rules and Regulations

Provide and Install Trail Signs

Develop Support Facilities

Construct New Trails

Promote Coordinated Volunteerism

Third Level

Non-Motorized Trail Recommendations

Provide Educational Programs

Provide Maps and Trail Information

Promote Regional Planning and Interagency Coordination

First Level Priority Recommendations for Non-motorized Trails

Renovation and Maintenance of Existing Trails

Issue: Non-motorized trails in the State are often eroded and deteriorated. This can be due to natural causes, overuse, improper design or lack of regular maintenance. Often badly eroded trails cause users to develop unauthorized alternate routes. Other trails are in need of tread maintenance and brush clearing. Trash and litter was identified as one of the public's biggest concerns. On the other side, land managers are facing a severe lack of financial resources and drastic cut backs on agency-funded crews.

Actions:

- Identify and prioritize reconstruction and maintenance needs of trails.
- Incorporate sustainable trail design when reconstructing/maintaining trails.
- Actively seek out grants, partnerships and volunteers to supplement trail budgets.
- Provide education about the litter problem (emphasize Pack it in—Pack it out); provide trash bags (or receptacles where appropriate, only recommended for areas where it is feasible to empty trash cans regularly) or other litter control means; partner with volunteer groups such as trail clubs and Keep Arizona Beautiful.

Projects that incorporate trail maintenance, renovation, or relocation to avoid future maintenance problems will be eligible for points under this category. Eligible costs include labor (hired crews or agency staff), equipment & operators, and materials. In-kind match can include time (at

hourly rate only) for scheduling, mobilizing, and orienting crews. This can include paid or volunteer crews. Administrative time (completing reports or processing payment requests) is not eligible. The purchase of trail maintenance equipment is not eligible for reimbursement, but may be use as match. Design and engineering costs are limited to 10% of the requested/awarded funds. **NOTE: All costs associated with public education regarding safe and responsible trail use will be eligible under the Signage category.**

Protect Access to Trails/Acquire Land for Public Access

Issue: Access refers to the ability of the user to get to the trailhead or area where the recreational opportunities exist. The continued development of Arizona's land encroaches on access to trails and can completely eliminate access if trails and access points are not incorporated into a city's or county's general plans. This is also an issue of trail connectivity between jurisdictions.

Actions:

- Implement more comprehensive planning with projections into the future to identify access needs, unprotected access points for trails, and acquire land for existing and proposed trails and trail access, easements and right-of-ways, as well as connector trails linking different jurisdictions.
- Coordinate trail access needs with users/stakeholders, involving them throughout the planning process.
- Have ASCOT and/or other groups host conferences that educate the trails and planning communities on how to address access issues.
- Permanently secure access to public trails, trailheads and other access points.
- Enact city and county ordinances and codes to preserve public access to recreation.
- Provide incentives to developers to preserve public access to trails.
- Ensure that trails are accessible for individuals with physical disabilities.

Projects that acquire property or right-of-way for trails or trail support facilities will be eligible for points under this category. Eligible costs will include cultural and environmental surveys and any expenses directly related to the acquisition, including but not limited to, land surveys and appraisals. NOTE: Land acquired with federal RTP funds must be committed to recreational use in perpetuity.

Second Level Priority Recommendations for Non-Motorized Trail Use

Mitigation and Restoration of Damage to Areas Surrounding Trails

Issue: Protection of Arizona's natural and cultural resources is important to both the public and land managers. Areas surrounding trails become damaged for a host of reasons; improper trail design causing erosion, users moving off the trail, overuse, and creation of unauthorized trails. Managers need to prevent and also

work to restore and mitigate damage to areas surrounding trails. The public perceives decreased wildlife sightings and damage to vegetation and cultural sites near trails as moderate problems. Land managers perceive damage to vegetation and increased invasive species along trails as moderate to serious problems, and habitat fragmentation and decreased wildlife sightings along trails as slight to moderate problems.

Actions:

- Rectify or reduce existing damage caused by trail use to natural or cultural resources along trails. This may include revegetation, invasive species treatment, trail realignments, or temporary closures.
- Incorporate sustainable trail design when reconstructing/maintaining trails.
- Seek innovative ways to provide educational signage on vegetation and wildlife habitat in the area and the human impacts. Emphasize the need for users to stay on trails.
- Install unobtrusive barriers around sensitive areas along trails, such as wetlands or archaeological sites, or consider rerouting trails, if appropriate. The use of wildlife blinds and viewing platforms help reduce impacts to wildlife and habitats.
- Maintain viable wildlife habitats and linkages through identification and protection of sensitive areas and important wildlife corridors.

Projects that include revegetation of closed/rerouted trail routes and/or areas adjacent to trailheads are eligible for points under this category. Eligible costs include labor (hired crews or agency staff), equipment & operators, and materials. In-kind match can include time (at hourly rate only) for scheduling, mobilizing, and orienting crews. This can include paid or volunteer crews. Costs for artificial watering are not eligible. The purchase of trail maintenance equipment is not eligible for reimbursement, but may be use as match. Design and engineering costs are limited to 10% of the requested/awarded funds. NOTE: All costs associated with public education regarding safe and responsible trail use will be eligible under the Signage category.

Enforcement of Existing Rules and Regulations/Monitoring

Issue: Trail rules and regulations are often unknown or ignored by users. People not following existing rules and laws create conflicts with other users and adjacent landowners. Different jurisdictions may have conflicting rules and as trails cross lands the management boundaries are not always clearly marked. Land managers do not have the staff or time to constantly monitor trails or manage a vast number of trails over large areas and cannot effectively patrol all trails. The enforcement of existing laws and regulations gives weight and importance to the rules.

Actions:

- Promote volunteer programs with clubs and individuals to patrol and monitor trail use and educate users about the regulations.

- Request assistance from enforcement entities within the area.
- Install complaint registers or provide enforcement contacts (phone numbers) for trail users to report information.
- Impose heavier fines for repeat offenders.
- Install regulatory signs and rules of conduct where appropriate.

A project that includes any of the suggested actions, except law enforcement not eligible under the RTP, will receive points under category. Eligible costs would include the costs to install the complaint register and regulatory signs specific to the project area.

Provide and Install Trails Signage

Issue: In addition to the trail itself, users require a number of different kinds of signage to safely and enjoyably pursue their trail experience. Locator signs that lead people to trailheads and parking areas, directional signs along the trail, destination signs to let people know they have reached end points, interpretive signs that describe the natural or cultural history of the area, and regulatory signs that explain the do's and don'ts of the area are important trail components.

Actions:

- Develop signage that includes route marking and access signage; include both trailhead kiosks and individual trail signs.
- Develop consistent inter-agency universal standards for signage.
- Provide bilingual signage.
- Provide interpretive signage that helps users understand and appreciate the need for protection of natural areas and cultural sites, and why regulations should be followed.
- Consider providing signs and information that allow users to determine if the trail is accessible for their individual capabilities (e.g., length, width, tread, slope).

A project that provides signs with the following information: direction/distances, trail identification, trail difficulty, safe use, environmental responsibility, and interpretive information is eligible for points under this category. Eligible costs include the cost of materials and installation and design and layout for interpretive signs. Staff time used to research interpretive information is not eligible for reimbursement, but can be used toward in-kind match. Design and engineering costs are limited to 10% of the requested/awarded funds.

Develop Support Facilities

Issue: In addition to the actual trail corridor, users often require support facilities to aid in the area's use and activities. Well-designed support facilities, accessible to all users, increase the user's experience and satisfaction along with protecting the natural resources, and keeping areas clean and free of litter and waste.

Support facilities include structures such as restrooms, water faucets, trash bins,

parking areas, kiosks, picnic sites, camp sites, wildlife blinds, viewing platforms and shelters.

Actions:

- Develop trailheads with adequate parking, restrooms, drinking water and litter control (such as providing individual litter bags or trash cans where appropriate).
- Develop picnic sites or camp sites in conjunction with the trailhead, where appropriate.
- Develop individual overnight camp sites or shelters along long trails frequented by backpackers.
- Support facilities should be accessible to all users; comply with ADA guidelines.

A project that provides structures such as restrooms, water faucets, trash bins, parking areas, bike racks, hitching rails, any ADA required features, kiosks, picnic sites, camp sites, wildlife blinds, viewing platforms and shelters is eligible for points under this category. Eligible costs include labor and materials. Design and engineering costs are limited to 10% of the requested/awarded funds.

Develop/Construct New Trails

Issue: There is demand for new trail opportunities in areas experiencing high growth rates. Also, as the types of activities change and new ones emerge, trails that provide for a specific type of activity may be needed. Development of new trails should include accessibility issues for the physically challenged wherever possible. The other "new" trail that is in demand in many areas is the "connecting" trail or link between two existing trails.

Actions:

- Develop trail opportunities for specific activities (i.e., single-track trails for mountain bikes, competitive events, geo-caching) where appropriate.
- Encourage cities, counties and towns to adopt planning and zoning ordinances to protect access to trails.
- Develop more close-to-home trail opportunities.
- Develop new trails, emphasizing sustainable design, in areas experiencing high population growth to meet demand.
- Plan for "connector" trails to expand the trail opportunities in established trail areas.

A project that includes construction of a trail that has not previously existed, conversion of a "social trail" that being included into a system, and conversion of a two-track road to non-motorized trail is eligible for points under this category. Eligible costs include labor (hired crews or agency staff), equipment & operators, and materials. In-kind match can include time (at hourly rate only) for scheduling, mobilizing, and orienting crews. This can include paid or volunteer crews. Administrative time (completing reports or processing payment requests) is not eligible. Design and engineering costs are limited to 10% of the requested/awarded

funds. The purchase of trail construction/maintenance equipment is not eligible for reimbursement, but may be use as match. Costs for cultural and NEPA assessments are not eligible for reimbursement, but may be used as match.

Promote Coordinated Volunteerism

Issue: Volunteers are a valuable supplement to an agency's labor force. Trail users are often willing volunteers to help build and maintain trails along with monitoring or educating users. Land managers desire increased use of volunteers but lack the time to effectively coordinate, manage, and train volunteers to use them to their potential.

Actions:

- Provide volunteer trainings for trail design and maintenance techniques.
- Enlist a volunteer to take a leadership role or be the liaison between the agency and volunteers and to coordinate trail projects.
- Recognize and support the need to allocate staff time to volunteer coordination.
- Seek grants and partnerships to support volunteers.
- Considering using trail volunteers to accomplish multiple goals such as controlling invasive species while maintaining trails.

A project that provides workshops or on-site training sessions to train primarily volunteers in trail design, construction, and maintenance skills is eligible for points under this category. The workshops/training sessions must be conducted within a one-year period. Eligible costs include staff time to coordinate the training, training materials, trainer stipend, and mobilization/equipment. The purchase of trail maintenance equipment is not eligible for reimbursement, but may be use as match. NOTE: The project sponsor must have an established record of providing similar trainings.

Third Level Priority Recommendations for Non-Motorized Trail Use

Education and Trail Etiquette

Issue: Trail users who lack proper trail etiquette and environmental ethics can deter from other trail users' recreation experience and negatively impact the environment. Littering, excessive speed, not staying on trails, vandalism and an inability of managers to enforce regulations leads to continued user conflicts and increasing environmental impacts.

Actions:

- Increase education resources for trail etiquette and environmental education.
- Work with educators to incorporate trail etiquette and environmental ethics material into existing school and youth programs.
- Collaborate with other agencies on education materials and programs to provide consistent messages .

- Emphasize educational messages that promote self-responsible behaviors, such as Pack It In—Pack it Out, Tread Lightly! and Leave No Trace.
- Have rules and regulations posted at trailheads for users .
- Promote “share the trail” and emphasize cooperation, tolerance and respect for other trail users.
- Make allowable trail uses known to users through trail signage, maps and brochures.
- Educational messages should be repeated year after year to reach visitors and new residents and trail users.

A project that provides workshops, seminars, or presentations that promote the actions identified for this category is eligible for points under this category. The workshops, seminars, or presentations must be conducted within a one-year period. Eligible costs include staff time to coordinate the presentation, educational materials, trainer stipend, and mobilization/equipment. Purchase of materials should be limited to existing and accepted materials. Materials specific to a special area may be developed. NOTE: The project sponsor must have an established record of providing similar trainings.

Provide Trails Information and Maps

Issue: Trail users need information and accurate maps that inform them where trails exist and include key trail facts. In most cases, comprehensive maps do not exist and when they do the information is hard to find. Much of the information available is out-of-date, covers a small area or single trail or is too general.

Actions:

- Use the Internet to post maps and information so it is widely accessible.
- Have maps cover regional areas .
- Have accurate information on how to get to trailheads and the condition of trails.
- Provide GPS coordinates and other location information.

A project that produces a map or maps or electronic location information is eligible for points under this category. Eligible costs include costs for design, layout, and printing the maps. Costs for gathering the electronic information are limited to the 10% design and engineering limitation. The information provided may include safety and environmental messages and would also qualify under the Education and Trail Etiquette category. Only the cost of adding those components to the map would be eligible.

Promote Regional Planning/Interagency Coordination

Issue: Interagency cooperation and consistency was a common theme throughout the public input process. Better communication between agencies is important to ensure a

understanding of agency plans and policies. Interagency coordination would allow for shared resources and interconnecting of trails and systems. There is a need to standardize trail rules, regulations and enforcement such as signage.

Actions:

- Collaborate with neighboring agencies to interconnect trail systems and share resources.
- Develop regional trail system plans and involve relevant agencies, organizations, and users in all planning efforts.
- Make the effort to hold regular meetings with jurisdictions surrounding your area to plan for trail connections and consistent signage between systems.
- Continue implementation of programs such as the Wildlife Linkages Assessment, Invasive Species task force, and Watchable Wildlife programs; get involved.
- Involve the recreational users in planning efforts and keep them informed of new policies and changes in management. They may be able to provide assistance and resources.

A project that demonstrates this type of cooperation in any aspect of completing the proposed scope of that project is eligible for points under this category. There are no eligible reimbursable costs.